

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 88: 63.

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THE GOSPEL—A BOON TO MANKIND*

ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

THE RESPONSIBILITY that rests upon one who occupies this position would be overpowering, but for the knowledge that those who stand here do so in obedience to the requirement that has been made by our Heavenly Father to convey to the children of men the message of the Gospel.

HOW MARVELOUS ARE THE WORKS OF GOD

Many times during the sessions of this conference my eyes have been dimmed by tears, not necessarily because of the thing that was said, but because of the influence that has pervaded this great assembly. While enjoying the remarks of the brethren my mind has dwelt on the opportunities offered in this great and wonderful universe, and I have felt to exclaim: “How marvelous are thy works, O Lord!” You who are here to-day, if you will examine yourselves, if you will count your many blessings, will say with me: Surely no people that have ever lived upon the earth have such occasion to be thankful for the mercies of our Heavenly Father, extended to them. Each of us is a weak instrument, each of us is comparatively helpless but for the mercy of the Lord that has been and is extended unto us.

GRATITUDE FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS

I am reminded of a prophet of old who stated that he was born

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of goodly parents. How thankful we ought to be for that wonderful blessing. I stand here to-day as one of the humblest among you, thankful beyond expression for my ancestry, grateful for my wife and my children, appreciative of the opportunity I have of associating with the best men and the best women who live upon the earth. When I realise the former barrenness and sterility of the western land, and now see this beautiful valley dotted by the homes of the children of our Lord, the meeting houses and Temples erected to Him, and when I behold these wonderful mountains capped by eternal snow, and realise that our Heavenly Father decreed that here His children should have their feet planted, and from here should go forth the word of the Lord, I feel deeply grateful that I have my humble home among this people in the midst of these delightful surroundings with the privilege of entering into the House of the Lord to receive His blessings with my brethren and sisters.

When I look into your faces I realise that you represent a great group of people who are not here to-day, many of whom, yes, most of whom, are of necessity as grateful as we for the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon them. I have mentioned only the physical comfort when I have referred to the surroundings, but the greater and more precious gift of our Heavenly Father is the blessing that has come to us to know that He lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith is the prophet of this latter dispensation, and that there is upon this earth at the present time a priesthood endowed with power from on high. What would it mean to us if suddenly there were taken from us this knowledge? How would it affect us if we had to part with the authority that God has conferred upon us? It would mean that there would be closed to us the doors of the celestial kingdom. It would mean that the crowning blessing toward which I have been taught to look since I was a child would not be realised: that of the companionship of my loved ones, the association of the father and the mother, and I may say mothers, for in my case I was fortunate to have two mothers, the companionship of many other good men and good women, who are as dear to me almost as life itself, could not be enjoyed in the celestial kingdom. I have been taught to look forward to the time when I might have their eternal companionship, and I rejoice and with deep gratitude thank my Father in heaven for that assurance.

GRATEFUL FOR A LIVING TESTIMONY

When I ponder over the condition of the people of this world, the doubt that is in the mind of the human family, I am reminded that it is only a repetition of history. People of the earth during past centuries have received the ministry of our Heavenly Father, through His divinely-appointed servants, but because of their indifference, and carelessness, because of selfishness and evil, they

have forfeited the knowledge that God lives, and they have turned from the worship of the true and living God to worship Baal, and the other false gods, that men have erected under the influence of the adversary of all righteousness. To-day, as I think of the men who stand as religious leaders among the people, and observe how helpless they are to inspire faith in the minds and lives of individuals, and realise that in the mercy of the Lord the Latter-day Saints have received, not something that is uncertain, but a living individual testimony that has been born into the lives of each soul who has complied with the simple requirements of our Heavenly Father, namely—faith in Him, repentance of sin, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost—I am profoundly grateful. Without exception, each repentant baptised believer who has complied with these requirements of the Lord has received a witness for himself that this is our Father's work.

THE FAITHLESS CONDITION OF THE WORLD

Observing the faithless condition of the world to-day I am constrained to read to you from a portion of the record of Mormon as contained in the Book of Mormon, and as inscribed on plates and buried in the Hill Cumorah by Moroni. He says:

“And now, I speak also concerning those who do not believe in Christ.

“Behold, will ye believe in the day of your visitation—behold, when the Lord shall come, yea, even that great day when the earth shall be rolled together as a scroll, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, yea, in that great day when ye shall be brought to stand before the Lamb of God—then will ye say that there is no God?

“Then will ye longer deny the Christ, or can ye behold the Lamb of God? Do ye suppose that ye shall dwell with him under a consciousness of your guilt? Do ye suppose that ye could be happy to dwell with that holy Being, when your souls are racked with a consciousness of guilt that ye have ever abused his laws?

“Behold, I say unto you that ye would be more miserable to dwell with a holy and just God, under a consciousness of your filthiness before him, than ye would to dwell with the damned souls in hell.

“For behold, when ye shall be brought to see your nakedness before God, and also the glory of God, and the holiness of Jesus Christ, it will kindle a flame of unquenchable fire upon you.” Mormon 9: 1-5.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Brethren and sisters, this is the record that was written by this man hundreds of years ago. As I said, history repeats itself. If there had been time I might have referred to the various dispensations when the Lord has revealed Himself. I am now reading from one of the dispensations as recorded in the Book of Mormon:

“O then ye unbelieving, turn ye unto the Lord; cry mightily unto the

Father in the name of Jesus, that perhaps ye may be found spotless, pure, fair, and white, having been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, at that great and last day.

“And again I speak unto you who deny the revelations of God, and say that they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues;

“Behold I say unto you, he that denieth these things knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them.

“For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?

“And now, if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is a shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a God of miracles.

“But behold, I will show unto you a God of miracles, even the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and it is that same God who created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.

“Behold, he created Adam, and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man came Jesus Christ, even the Father and the Son; and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man.

“And because of the redemption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are brought back into the presence of the Lord; yea, this is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ bringeth to pass the resurrection, which bringeth to pass a redemption from an endless sleep, from which sleep all men shall be awakened by the power of God when the trump shall sound; and they shall come forth, both small and great, and all shall stand before his bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death.

“And then cometh the judgment of the Holy One upon them; and then cometh the time that he that is filthy shall be filthy still; and he that is righteous shall be righteous still; he that is happy shall be happy still; and he that is unhappy shall be unhappy still.

“And now, O all ye that have imagined up unto yourselves a god who can do no miracles, I would ask of you, have all these things passed, of which I have spoken? Has the end come yet? Behold I say unto you, Nay; and God has not ceased to be a God of miracles.

“Behold, are not the things that God hath wrought marvelous in our eyes? Yea, and who can comprehend the marvelous works of God?

“Who shall say that it was not a miracle that by his word the heaven and the earth should be; and by the power of his word man was created of the dust of the earth; and by the power of his word have miracles been wrought?

“And who shall say that Jesus Christ did not do many mighty miracles? And there were many mighty miracles wrought by the hands of the apostles.

“And if there were miracles wrought then, why has God ceased to be a God of miracles and yet be an unchangeable Being? And behold, I say unto you he changeth not; if so he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles.

“And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men is because that they dwindle in unbelief.” Mormon 9: 6-20.

Remember he was preaching the Gospel to the unbelievers. I want to repeat the last clause.

“And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust.

“Behold, I say unto you that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.

“For behold, thus saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, unto his disciples who should tarry, yea, and also to all his disciples, in the hearing of the multitude: Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;

“And he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned;

“And these signs shall follow them that believe—in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover;

“And whosoever shall believe in my name, doubting nothing, unto him will I confirm all my words, even unto the ends of the earth.

“And now, behold, who can stand against the works of the Lord? Who can deny his sayings? Who will rise up against the almighty power of the Lord? Who will despise the works of the Lord? Who will despise the children of Christ? Behold, all ye who are despisers of the works of the Lord, for ye shall wonder and perish.

“O then despise not, and wonder not, but hearken unto the words of the Lord, and ask the Father in the name of Jesus for what things soever ye shall stand in need. Doubt not, but be believing, and begin as in times of old, and come unto the Lord with all your heart, and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling before him.

“Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness; ask not, that ye may consume it on your lusts, but ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye will yield to no temptation, but that ye will serve the true and living God.

“See that ye are not baptized unworthily; see that ye partake not of the sacrament of Christ unworthily; but see that ye do all things in worthiness, and do it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God; and if ye do this and endure to the end, ye will in no wise be cast out.

“Behold, I speak unto you as though I spake from the dead; for I know that ye shall hear my words.”

This man was the one who completed the record. This man hid it away, and yet it seems almost as if it were his dying witness unto the children of men. He calls attention to the fact that these words will reach them, and by the power of God they have reached hundreds of thousands, yea millions, of the children

of men who dwell upon the earth. He was a prophet of the Lord. He had the authority to speak in the name of the Lord. He did testify without fear of the things that he knew were necessary for the salvation of men. He bore witness to the power that comes to those who possess the holy Priesthood, and in this day in which we live, although hundreds of years have elapsed, his testimony has been brought forth by the gift and power of God, translated and printed and scattered broadcast among the human family, as another witness of the divinity of our Lord and Master.

THE GOSPEL A PANACEA FOR THE ILLS OF MANKIND

My brethren and sisters, I thank my heavenly Father for the blessing that comes to me this day. I am grateful to Him for everything that I enjoy. I thank Him for your companionship, and for the comfort and satisfaction that I enjoy, as I visit to and fro in the stakes of Zion, and in the missionary field in seeing men and women like yourselves who are anxious to know the will of our Heavenly Father, and who in their hearts are saying: "Father in heaven, show me thy will and I will endeavour to keep thy commandments." In the past two months I have traveled more than eleven thousand miles in this wonderful land of America, from the eastern seaboard to the western seaboard. I have borne witness of the divinity of this work: I have found great and good men outside the pale of this, or of any Church, who are apparently anxious to know what the end will be as a result of the condition that this world finds itself in. It has been my privilege to explain to some of these my faith in the Divine mission of Jesus Christ, my knowledge that our Heavenly Father loves His children, as He always has done; the assurance that has burned into my soul, for which I am grateful, that I know that the work of our Heavenly Father is upon the earth, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will solve the problem and be a panacea for the ills that afflict mankind. I have borne witness of this, and have found response in the hearts of some of these, our Father's children, who do not understand the truth. Again let me express my gratitude for the blessings that I enjoy. My heart is full of thanksgiving for all that has been bestowed upon me and upon you. God grant that we may sustain His name and His Church, that we will uphold the hands of those who preside over us, and by so doing continue to be worthy of that assurance that passeth understanding, that we are indeed the children of God, heirs of salvation in His celestial kingdom, as a result of observing His laws and keeping His commandments, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOOD BOOKS, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable.—L. M. ALCOTT.

TRUTH, THE FOUNDATION

WE BELIEVE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. We believe in all truth, no matter to what subject it may refer. No sect or religious denomination in the world possesses a single principle or truth that we do not accept or that we will reject. We are willing to receive all truth, from whatever source it may come; for truth will stand; truth will endure. No man's faith, no man's religion, no religious organisation in all the world, can ever rise above the truth. The truth must be the foundation of religion, or it is in vain and it will fail of its purpose. I say that the truth is at the foundation, at the bottom and top of, and it entirely permeates this great work of the Lord that was established through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. God is with it; it is His work, not that of man; and it will succeed no matter what the opposition may be. We look now at the opposition arrayed against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and smile, so to speak, with feelings of confidence, doubly assured by the experience of the past, in comparison to the feelings that possessed the souls of our fathers and mothers in the early days of the Church, when they were but a handful with all the world arrayed against them; just a few poor, homeless people, driven from their possessions, cast out from the communities in which they sought to establish themselves and build their homes. When I think of our people, thrust into the wilderness, wandering and seeking for a place where the soles of their feet might rest, and see, then, the world arrayed against them, and think of the little chance that appeared before them for success and the accomplishment of their purposes, I wonder that more of them did not tremble and falter than did; but some of them were true, in the midst of it all, even unto death. If it had been necessary for them to have been martyred for the truth, willingly would they have given their lives, as they gave all else that they possessed in the world, for the knowledge they had of the divinity of the work in which they were engaged. Are we as faithful to-day? Are we as devout as our fathers were? Oh, my God, help me to be as true as they were! Help me to stand as they stood, upon the pedestal of eternal truth, that no power on earth, or in hell, may remove me from that foundation. This is my prayer to the Lord for my own sake, and it is my prayer to Him for every Latter-day Saint throughout the length and breadth of the world.—PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH in *Gospel Doctrine*.

WE GROW BY OVERCOMING; the force we conquer becomes our own. We rise on difficulties we surmount. What opposes, arouses, strengthens, and disciplines the will, discloses to the mind its power, and implants faith in the efficacy of patient, persevering labour.—SELECTED.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1925

EDITORIAL

AUTHORITY AND THE RIGHT TO USE IT

A MAN MAY BE INVESTED with definite authority and yet be under regulation or restraint in the direct and immediate exercise thereof. This truism applies both to secular and church administration.

Thus, the judge of a high court is empowered to impose penalties of fine, imprisonment, or even death; but this authority, vested in the judge by virtue of his official commission, he may use only in due process of the law. No one lacking the required authority can effectively pronounce sentence, or speak the gladsome words that give liberty to the prisoner, under any circumstances; but the lawfully appointed judge can so act, though only under well defined conditions. The accused person must have been duly charged with the offense he is alleged to have committed; he must have been arraigned at the bar in the legally prescribed way; he must have had a fair and impartial trial, and have been pronounced guilty—all prior to his being brought up to receive the sentence of the court. The statutes of the land restrain judges from hasty or capricious action, while upholding the great power of their exalted and responsible office when it is exercised under prescribed conditions of time, place and circumstance.

So also, no one lacking a Master's license can be placed in charge of a sea-going ship; none but a legally qualified officer can command a vessel of the Navy. But even an official of rank has no right to go aboard a vessel at will, and assume control. He must not alone possess the authority to command, but be also directed by specific appointment or commission to put it into operation.

A close parallel lies between these orderly and necessary regulations in secular, or, as we often hear, solely human, affairs, and the order of government and service in the Church of Jesus Christ as now reestablished upon the earth. The "power of Godliness", without which there can be no real Church of Christ, is the authority of the Holy Priesthood or, in other words, the divinely bestowed right and appointment to administer and officiate in the name of Jesus Christ, or in that of the Holy Trinity—the three separate personages, God the Eternal Father, His actual and Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the unembodied Holy Ghost.

The specific duties, the clearly defined limitations of authority,

and the respective responsibilities attaching to each of the many and graded offices in the Priesthood have been given through revelation. Every bearer of the Priesthood and every adult member of the Church should be familiar with these important matters, through reading and study, aided by the lessons provided for the several organisations within the Church.

The priest, and, of course, his superior officer, the elder, have authority to administer at the sacramental table, and to baptise qualified applicants for admission into the Church. But no priest or elder can so officiate wholly on his own initiative. To the contrary, he must be assigned or appointed by his president to so exercise or put into action the authority with which he was invested by ordination.

Even the traveling elders in the Missions, who are under appointment to go from place to place, preaching, teaching, and baptising, act according to assignment and general regulations. In ordinary course no baptism should be arranged for without prior report to and under authorisation from the Conference President. In the wards at home, which are component units of the stakes, baptisms are not administered except under the authorisation and particular direction of the respective Bishop. Yet in some of the larger wards there may be many scores of elders and priests, every one of whom has the authority requisite to administer baptism, but is wholly lacking in the right to use that authority except under direction or approval of his Bishop.

If every bearer of the Priesthood, or officer within the Church, assumed to administer ordinances solely at his own instance and will, confusion would inevitably ensue; and confusion means discord and evil. Ponder the following :

“Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion. Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name? Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed? And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was?” Doctrine and Covenants 132: 8-11.

By unauthorized exercise of authority there may be apparent nullification of official acts. Thus, as an extreme possibility we may consider the case of a member having been charged with conduct violative of the law and order of the Church. He may be tried by an ecclesiastical court, and if found guilty of grave transgression, yet manifesting no repentance or contrition, may receive the extreme penalty the Church ever imposes—that of excommunication. Were it the prerogative of any priest or elder to minister independently, such a one might prematurely rebaptise the excommunicant, and so apparently make void the decision of the court that dealt with the case. Thus confusion would arise; though this might soon be composed, as the presiding authority

would set aside the "rebaptism" as invalid, because irregular and unauthorized, and therefore as being no baptism at all. No such case is before us; neither is any anticipated; the assumption has been made for purposes of illustration only.

There are duties pertaining to the Priesthood, however, and these are many, that require no special assignment or appointment. An elder, and for that matter every member, is always empowered to exemplify the principles of the Gospel, and is expected and required to live in accordance with them. The sermon of his daily life requires no call to the pulpit nor specific appointment to preach. Any elder not under restraint in his ministry may administer to the afflicted, on proper request, by anointing the crown of the head of such person with oil that has been consecrated for that purpose, and by supplication for the rebuking of all powers and influences inimical to health, and this with the accompaniment of the laying on of hands. So priests, teachers and deacons are expected to act in the discharge of general duties and to be eager and willing so to serve as occasion permits. Ordinances that are to be made of record, however, are to be administered under assignment only.

Every man who is ordained to an office in the Priesthood receives the authority and responsibility pertaining to that office, as also those of all lesser or lower offices. An elder, therefore, is priest, teacher, and deacon, and should be in a state of ready willingness to serve in the capacity of any or all of these.

It must be kept in mind that the purpose of the Lord's establishment of Priesthood in the Church is that of commissioning worthy men to serve their fellows, and by so doing to more effectively serve Him in the furtherance of Divine purposes. Service, to be of greatest good to others, must be competently directed and regulated. Far from hindering individual effort, this orderly system will prove conducive to increased endeavour and enhanced success.—J. E. T.

IT IS TEMPORARILY EASIER to be passive than aggressive, whether we claim for our guiding code man's rules of ethics, or the clear-cut requirements of the Gospel of Christ. There are more good men on earth than men who are good for much.

The Gospel demands something greater than avoidance of actual sins of commission. Culpability of neglect and omission may justly condemn the soul. Wilful spurning of Divine opportunity may work eternal loss. Though the Scriptures affirm the possibility of progression after death, nowhere do we find ground for assuming that failure to obey the Gospel on earth will be nullified by immediate remission beyond. We have no basis for computing the ages that shall be requisite to make amends there for disobedience here.—J. E. T.

RESULTS OF ACCEPTING THE GOSPEL*

ELDER JOHN M. KNIGHT

PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN STATES MISSION

MY HEART HAS BEEN MADE TO REJOICE in the testimonies and experiences given this day. I have pleasure in representing the people of the Western States Mission and bringing to you greetings from them, also from your sons and your daughters who are labouring there, preaching the Gospel of repentance. I have never associated with a finer group of men and women than those who are at present labouring under my direction. My heart has been filled to overflowing when I have listened to their testimonies concerning the establishment of God's work in the latter days. They have an abiding faith in the living God, they have an abiding faith in the Divine mission of Jesus Christ and in the atoning sacrifice that He made on Calvary for the redemption and salvation of the human family. They have an abiding faith in the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith and those who were associated with him and those who have followed in his footsteps. Undaunted and unafraid they are proclaiming the message of salvation to the people of the Western States, and I want to say to you that those who are accepting their message are receiving the same spirit and the same testimony that have come into the lives of all Latter-day Saints who have obeyed the commandments of our Eternal Father. They are not afraid to lay down the gauntlet and say to men and women everywhere: "If you will repent of your sins and yield obedience to the saving ordinances of the Gospel, you shall know of the doctrine whether it is of God or whether we speak of ourselves." The testimony of hundreds of men and women who have received the ordinances of the Gospel is to the effect that the Spirit of God has come into their lives, and all doubt has been removed from their souls. They have been made happy in the knowledge that God lives, and that His promises are true.

I would like to relate just one or two experiences that have come to me from the men and women who have received the message of the Gospel in their hearts and have obeyed it. I do this because several have said to me, since I came to attend the sessions of this conference: "Are those whom you are baptising worth while? Are they faithful Latter-day Saints? Do they keep the commandments of God?" I want to say to you that I have seen genuine faith manifest on the part of many who have accepted the Gospel and who are far removed from our organised branches, isolated if you please, perhaps a single family alone in the community.

*Address delivered at the afternoon session of the Ninety-fifth Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 4th, 1925.

I call to mind one family in the State of Wyoming, the only members of the Church in the small community where they reside, baptised a year ago last February, a widow with eight children, six boys and two girls. Just before Christmas of last year I received a letter from the oldest boy, nineteen years of age, to this effect: "Elder Knight, I believe that I am being neglected. I have been a member of the Church almost a year, and I have not yet been called upon a mission. I want to go and preach the Gospel. I may not measure up to the standard of the missionaries that you have in Wyoming, but I will do my very best." Realising that his mother is a widow, I wrote her a letter and asked her what should be done. She answered: "I knew that my boy had written you. I make approximately one hundred twenty-five dollars a month doing hospitalisation work. The desire of my heart is that all of my boys may do missionary work for the Church of Jesus Christ, and if I pay a little each month I should like to have my boy go as soon as he is out of school this year." Since then I have received several letters from that mother. In one of them she said that she had never earned more than one hundred fifty dollars in a single month, but on the first of February I received a letter from her in which she enclosed her tithing for the month of January—thirty dollars and fifty cents. Said she: "Surely the Lord has been good to me. Last month I made more than twice as much as I have ever made in a single month before—three hundred five dollars;" and in the month of March I received another letter in which she said: "Enclosed find my tithing—forty dollars. I made four hundred dollars in February." I will say that that young man will have the opportunity of going on a mission and preaching the Gospel of repentance. The Lord is opening up the way for that widow woman and not only the one boy, but others, will follow, and they will make valued defenders of the faith.

In the city of Pueblo, three weeks ago to-morrow, another little woman came to me and said: "President Knight, I am ready to mortgage my home that my oldest boy might have the desire of his heart to fill a mission to the nations of the world." I could mention many other circumstances of like character. One young man recently joined the Church in the State of Nebraska. He was prominently identified with one of the Protestant organisations. Since his baptism he has taken an active part with our missionaries and now is spending two to four hours each day, tracting his home town and bearing witness that God has heard his prayers and that he knows the Gospel taught by the Latter-day Saints is the power of God unto salvation. These men and women who are receiving the Gospel are worth while. The same witness has come into their lives that has come into your lives, and the lives of all who have accepted the Gospel and obeyed the commandments of our Eternal Father. I rejoice in my association

with these men and women because of their faith and their devotion.

We have been fortunate in baptising a large number of converts. Among the number baptised are three ex-ministers of the Gospel. I asked one of them why he joined the Church and he said: "For years I have been looking for a satisfying religion, and I did not find it in any of the Protestant churches, neither did I find it in the Catholic church; but when I investigated 'Mormonism' there came a new light into my life, and I am happy to have come in contact with your missionaries." He said further: "I want all the books that have been written by your people, because, though I preached the Gospel for many years, I realise how little I know about the great plan of salvation. The Bible has become a new revelation to me. Every time I open its lids, new inspiration comes into my life, and I rejoice that I have at last found the truth." All these things give evidence to me that these men and women have been converted to the Gospel of the Master.

I do not desire to occupy more time. I rejoice in the blessings of the Gospel. I know, as I know I live, that it is true, that God lives, that Jesus Christ is His Son, the Redeemer of the world, the only name by which salvation may come to His children here upon the earth. I know too, as I know that I live, that Joseph Smith was the instrument in the hands of God of establishing again His work in the earth. He was the pioneer, the pathfinder, he blazed the way and gave to the children of men in our day a new faith in God and in His glorious work. I know, too, that the men who preside in Israel to-day are prophets of God, inspired to direct the destiny of Israel. May God bless us all that we may be obedient to their counsel, and that we may have power to reduce to practice in our lives the instructions that are given to us by our file leaders. That is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROPHECY AND REVELATION

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY and revelation is necessary in the Church to direct the officers thereof in the performance of their duties. It is useless to contend that the directions given by the spirit of revelation to the ancient servants of the Lord will answer for God's ministry now. As well might it be argued that the miller to-day could grind with the water which passed his mill-wheel yesterday. The conditions under which the Church of Christ exists in various ages are constantly changing; and the officers of the Church always require Divine direction, which can only be supplied by revelation. The revelations given to the patriarchs from Adam to Abraham and Melchizedek were not esteemed sufficient to direct Moses in the management of the

dispensation committed to him. Nor were the numerous revelations given to Moses sufficient to guide his successor, Joshua, in leading Israel; but a means for obtaining the word of the Lord was provided for him through the use of the Urim and Thummim, in the hands of the High Priest. So also the revelations given to Moses, to Joshua and his successors, the judges and prophets of Israel, were not considered sufficient to direct the labour of the apostles and seventies and elders in the dispensation of the Gospel introduced by the Lord Jesus. Nor were the revelations given to the first apostles sufficient to direct the labours of Paul and his associates in the constantly changing circumstances in the midst of which they found themselves. After having gone throughout Phrygia and the whole region of Galatia, Paul, had he followed his own inclinations, would have gone into Asia to preach; but he was forbidden of the Holy Ghost—that is, by revelation. Afterwards he would have gone into Bithynia, but the Spirit suffered him not—that is, gave a revelation forbidding him to go into that land. Afterwards, through an inspired vision, he was called into Macedonia, and began that wonderful missionary career which resulted in spreading a knowledge of the Gospel throughout Macedonia, Greece and the western division of the Roman Empire. In like manner, in all succeeding generations, and no less in our own than in any that has preceded it, the ministry of the Church of Christ stands absolutely in need of the spirit of prophecy and revelation to direct its labours, if those labours are to be efficient and acceptable to God.

The spirit of prophecy and revelation is necessary in the Church not only to call its ministers and direct their labours, but also to teach, correct, reprove, comfort and warn the members thereof. How else shall they be preserved from error in doctrine, and from the strife and division consequent upon it? Man's ways are not as God's ways; and it seems almost inherent in human nature to wander from the ways of the Lord, to seek out many strange inventions. Human wisdom is not sufficient for this work of correcting errors and reproofing saints; for "the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God"; hence the necessity of the ministry of the Church having the spirit of prophecy and revelation.

And then, for another reason should the ministry of the Church teach, "not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"; that the faith of the saints stands not in "the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Nor is it enough for the ministry to be inspired of God; the lay members of the Church no less than the ministry have a right to it—to the people as well as to the priests is the Holy Ghost promised; and the people have need of it as well as the ministry; for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know

them, because they are spiritually discerned." Hence the importance of those who listen being inspired by the same spirit as those who teach. "It is written," says Paul, that "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. . . . Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." If thus the saints in the primitive Christian times enjoyed the spirit of revelation and prophecy, why should not the saints in all succeeding ages enjoy it, since it is promised to them as well as unto the first Christians, and God is no respecter of persons? Why should not Christians in all ages have the spirit of prophecy to enlighten and comfort their souls and warn them of events to come?—ELDER B. H. ROBERTS, IN *New Witnesses for God*.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Concert—The Missionary Elders of the Leeds Conference gave a concert in Bradford on July 11th.

Baptism—A baptismal service was held on July 12th at Lowestoft (Norwich Conference). Six candidates were baptised by Elders Walter F. Whitehead and Rufon L. Russon, and confirmed by President Ralph C. Jones, and Elders Walter F. Whitehead, Maurice R. Barnes, Clifford D. Gough, Harold L. White and Ben E. Summers.

Missionary Meetings—Of the Nottingham Conference at Nottingham on Saturday, June 27th, at which President Boyd H. Ririe explained the duties of a missionary, and Elder A. F. Kendell gave a talk on the Eighth Article of Faith.

Of the Norwich Conference at Lowestoft, on June 27th, at which it was reported that several new fields for holding street meetings had been opened.

Of the Birmingham Conference at Handsworth, Birmingham, on July 4th. Favourable results from country tracting were reported.

Outings—Games and athletic sports were enjoyed by those who attended the following outings:

Of the Lowestoft Branch (Norwich Conference) at Lowestoft on July 9th.

Of the South London Branch at Windsor Castle on July 11th.

Of the Sparkbrook Branch (Birmingham Conference) at Lickey Hills, near Birmingham, on July 11th.

Of the Belfast Branch (Ulster Conference) at Cave Hill on July 17th.

Of the Leicester Branch (Nottingham Conference) at Nanpanton on July 18th.

Of the Handsworth Branch (Birmingham Conference) at Barnt Green on July 19th.

Of all the Branches of the Nottingham Conference, near Hucknall, on July 25th, at which Pioneer songs, stories, and speeches were also given to commemorate Pioneer Day, when the first "Mormon" Pioneers entered Salt Lake Valley in the Year 1817.

THE NEEDS OF YESTERDAY

UNBOWED OF YEARS nor yet of pungent sorrow,
 Unsmirched of doubt that probes its avid way,
 I yet have need of grace and a to-morrow
 To right the many wrongs of yesterday.

The many hours I have not lived to filling,
 The wasted days of empty little wiles,
 The crying tasks that have not found me willing—
 The span of cloud that needed but my smiles;

The fleeting beats of chance so easy squandered,
 The thousand little precious wants of time—
 And all the ways of quest I have not wandered,
 Where timid ones might cling to hands of mine.

Ah me! the little zest and care expended,
 The meager, little, momentary zeal—
 To others' wrongs that might have been amended,
 And rasping little hurts that I could heal!

O thou who knowest every throb of sorrow,
 Bear still with me, for I would know the way,
 That somewhere in the might of thy to-morrow,
 I may amend the needs of yesterday!

BERTHA A. KLEINMAN

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
 LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN